

You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me.” John 12:8

What is the motivation among the different leaders and voices we hear in our world? There are many different important movements in our world today. From issues of poverty to issues of justice and fairness, all these movements can be justified. In this passage, Judas made a statement that the value of the perfume Mary used to anoint Jesus could have been used to help the poor. The Apostle John clarifies that Judas was not really concerned about the poor, instead he was concerned about the amount of money he could have made from the sale of the perfume. It was clear that Judas' heart was not in the right place.

It would be easy for somebody to read this passage and state that helping the poor is not important. That is not the issue Jesus is addressing and would be a serious misunderstanding of His ministry. The real question being addressed is, "Do you love Me?" Jesus knew that in 7 days He would be crucified, and Mary spared no expense to show her adoration of Jesus. Mary was probably not aware that this perfume would prepare Jesus for His burial when she anointed Him, but she was aware that she was called to worship Jesus.

In the same way, what is our motivation when it comes to faith and ministry. It is possible for a person's social responsibility to become more important than their devotion to Jesus. And as followers of Christ, we are called to discern the motivation behind different leaders and voices. If somebody is a champion for the poor and becomes excessively rich from the ministry, what is their motivation? In the same manner, are people devoted to Jesus and living a life that pleases God? Or are they using religious language to gain the following of religious people. The question starts with you. Where is your heart? All of us need to learn from Mary and express our devotion to Jesus through our actions. No matter the cost!

Read John 12:1-11